“The mission of the VGNA is to improve the quality of life in Valley Glen by listening to the needs of the residents, facilitating communication between those with needs and those with solutions, and taking direct action to provide those solutions.”

Questions? Suggestions? Issues?!

Bring them to the Town Hall on June 11!

What’s on your mind? The Town Hall is a chance to speak up, to ask questions, to raise issues. Come with questions and suggestions. Come to listen and learn what’s going on in our community.

Who will be there?

- **Michael Perez**, Senior Lead Officer
- **Sahag Yedalian**, from Councilman Paul Krekorian’s Office
- **Vanessa Carr**, from Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian’s office
- **Jessica Orellana**, from Supervisor Sheila Keuhl’s office
- **Jon Gordon**, LA Metro Transit Security Community Liaison
- Members of the GVGNC (Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council)
- Board Members of the VGNA (Valley Glen Neighborhood Association)

**When is it?**
Tuesday, June 11
6:30 Meet & Greet
7:00 – 9:00 Meeting

**Where is it?**
LA Valley College
Admin & Career Adv Bldg.
Second Floor – Room 2505
See map on page 6

**Where do I park?**
Free Parking: Levels 2 - 4
See map on page 6

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Your VGNA Board:

Tina Houston
President

Katina Shields
Vice President

Howard Gradet
Secretary - Grid Captain

Michael Rosenzweig
Treasurer

Open
Marketing Director

Katina Shields
Editor - The Valley Glen Voice

Representatives:

Area A:
1. Tony Richelieu
2. Harry Norton
3. Katina Shields

Area B:
1. Dean Abston
2. Cosmo Moore
3. Edie & Sid Yukelson

Area C:
1. Michael Rosenzweig
2. Chris and Laura Mann

Grid 1: Bruce & Jenny Gaims

Grid 2:
W. Dave Ginsberg
E. Keith & Esther Hickman

Grid 3: Linda Carreon
Regla Vera

Grid 4:
A. Carlos Pajuelo
B. Tina Houston

Grid 5: Sandy & Michael Russell
Michael Randall

Grid 6: Howard Gradet

Grid 7: Mirna Pajuelo
Amilia Trivisonno
Angelica Fuentes
Mercedes Driotes

Grid 8: Robin Shafer

Remember when...
By Sid Yukelson

My wife Edie and I have lived in our Valley Glen home since 1963, and we marvel at how the area has changed in the last half century. But long before we moved in, the Valley was inhabited by Chumash Indians, and missionaries and farmers. But let’s not go back that far.

When we first moved in, a dirt road connected Burbank Blvd. to Coldwater Canyon Blvd. Gas stations—Shell, Texaco, Signal Oil—dotted the corners of most major intersections. On the northeast corner of Victory and Fulton, where we now find a 7Eleven and Walgreens, there was a drive-in dairy. There was another dairy on Sherman Way where the K-Mart now stands.

Have you ever noticed, when you’re driving east on Oxnard near Woodman, the small rise in the roadway? You are actually driving over covered railroad tracks that were part of the Southern Pacific Railroad Line! Instead of removing the tracks and concreting over the rail bed as was done in other areas, the County just covered the tracks.

Oxnard St. from Van Nuys Blvd. to Sepulveda was a two-lane road that turned into a dangerous, muddy one-lane road when the winter rains came. At the end of Oxnard, past Sepulveda, was Builder’s Emporium, the hardware store housed in a World War II Quonset hut.

And if you wanted a night at the movies, you could pack up snacks, pillows and blankets for the kids, drive over to the Victory Drive-In, where now stands Valley Glen’s largest shopping center that includes a CVS, a Vallarta grocery store and an LA Fitness.

Maybe the changes that have happened in our half-century aren’t as extreme as the changes in the half-century before we moved in, when much of what became Van Nuys, Valley Glen and North Hollywood was still farmland, but one thing we can be sure of: people looking back at 2019 from 2069 will probably think our Valley Glen is as old-fashioned as we think it was when Edie and I moved in.

PLEASE ADVERTISE WITH US

Would you like more Valley Glen customers for your business?
Advertise in the Valley Glen Voice quarterly newsletter.

Email janetnewton@valleyglen.org or call 818-869-4973
When Lusy Gradzhyan was a child in Armenia, she probably never thought that an earthquake would lead her to a career as an award-winning chef in the San Fernando Valley. But in 1988 when Lusy was 21, her village was devastated by a 6.8 earthquake, and her widowed father decided to move his family to America.

Lusy’s story reads like that of many immigrants: for the first 20 years, money and work were hard to come by, and she had difficulty learning English. But Lusy discovered a previously unknown talent for creating recipes, a gift for using spices, and a natural instinct, not just for food preparation, but presentation.

In 2006, she leased a small restaurant space in Valley Glen, in a shopping center at the southwest corner of Victory and Woodman. With no prior restaurant experience, Lusy was in business: no canned ingredients, no pre-made sauces, salad dressings or packaged foods. With recipes based on her grandmother’s, but with Lusy’s special touch, everything was, and still is, made from scratch.

After a slow start, Yelp reviewers began posting. Perhaps you were one of those early posters. Now Yelp rates Lusy’s as one of the best restaurants in Los Angeles for Mediterranean cuisine; Westways Magazine, with a circulation of 4 million readers, chose Lusy’s as one of their top 5 picks for delicious, affordable Los Angeles eating; and Lusy’s has been named the champion at the West Coast Culinary Food Show.

But Lusy is more than a top local chef with a magic touch for Mediterranean cuisine; she and her husband, co-owner Avo Koshkaryan have been honored as the 46th Assembly District’s Small Business of the Year for their active, positive role in the community. They have also been honored by the LA City Council as outstanding citizens for their community outreach and involvement.

When we sit down at Lusy’s, however, either at her Valley Glen or new Encino location, we aren’t thinking about Lusy and Avo’s community service, we’re thinking about the wonderful aromas issuing from her kitchen and trying to decide just which delicious offerings to order!

Editor’s Note: We would also like to thank Lusy’s for consistently supporting the VGNA by advertising in our newsletter.

From 5 guests to 500, Lusy’s caters office lunches, holiday parties, family gatherings, game days and more. Skip the dishes and schedule today!

Delicious Mediterranean.
Done fresh daily.

6357 Woodman Avenue
Valley Glen, California 91401
818-997-4330
www.lusycuisine.com

GANG AWARENESS
Recently the Valley Glen Community has seen an increase of MS13 gang graffiti in both the Van Nuys and North Hollywood areas. It is believed that the increase is due to the MS13 gang attempting to increase its territory.

Recently I held a neighborhood watch meeting to address this specific issue. In attendance was Lieutenant Orlando Moreno from the Van Nuys Area Gang Unit who provided a brief history of the MS13 gang and the Department’s efforts to curb their activity. ■

Lieutenant Moreno provided the following community flier:

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
VAN NUYS AREA
COMMUNITY MEMBER GANG AWARENESS

Our most important resource in fighting gang crime is you- the community. If you see something, say something.

Emergency: 9-1-1
LAPD Non-Emergency Line: 1-800-ASK-LAPD (800-275-5273)

Gang members are often characterized by the following behavior:
• Similar clothing or sportswear, such as several people wearing hats or jerseys with the same team logo.
• Gang activity such as “tagging” walls with graffiti, throwing gang signs, or shouting gang slogans at passersby.

How can I help?
• Call 9-1-1 or the LAPD non-emergency line to report gang crime and gang activity, even if it seems minor or “not worth the police’s time”.
• Install a home security camera system on your property to monitor not only your home, but the adjacent streets and alleys.
• Download the LA 311 mobile app on your smartphone or tablet in order to report gang tagging immediately to the LA city anti-graffiti teams. It’s easy, and free.
• Contact the Van Nuys Area Gang Enforcement Detail with questions or information:
  • Lt. Moreno (818) 374-1997 27718@lapd.online
  • Sgt. Mungcal (818) 374-1996 36784@lapd.online
  • Ofcr Flores (818) 374-1917 42149@lapd.online
  • Ofcr Charles (818) 374-1916 39485@lapd.online
  • Ofcr Sewell (818) 374-1952 37714@lapd.online

Officer Perez is a nineteen-year veteran of the LAPD and assumed the position of Senior Lead Officer in November 2018. ■

Contact Info: Senior Lead Officer Michael Perez 818-731-2566 35569@lapd.online

As a note, California joins 35 other states that now require temporary paper plates.
What should you do if you find your neighborhood has been tagged?

One early March morning my neighbors and I woke up to find that our little corner of Valley Glen had been tagged: a wall and two fences were covered with gang signatures.

We immediately reported this to 311 and they were quickly removed. But we did one other thing: We reached out to our SLO--Senior Lead Officer--Justin Burgmann. The SLO is the officer in charge of a basic car area within a geographic division. SLO’s provide a link between our communities and the LAPD.

He contacted Sahag Yedalian from Councilman Kerkorian’s office, and that Saturday they met with us (about 12 families) in the park. Here’s a synopsis of what was discussed, and what we learned.

• Tagging is gang-related, which has nothing to do with any other neighborhood issues. Taggers come and go in just the time it takes to spray their names on a wall.

• If you get tagged, remove the tag immediately if you can, or contact 311 to do it if the job is too big. You don’t want another gang seeing it and starting a fight over the territory.

• Suggestions for dissuading taggers included covering potential canvases with trees or bougainvillea: the smaller the uncovered wall area, the less attractive it is as a potential graffiti canvas.

There are some things we can do to make our neighborhood less hospitable to folks who are looking for a place to hang out:

• Add more light to the front of our houses

• Petition the city (through DWP) for more street lights

• Install video camera systems

• Get together in twos and threes and just walk the block. Where there’s foot traffic it’s less likely that people will hang out.

• As a side note, the neighbors on the block to the south of the park do exactly that. When they see folks hanging out in parked cars on their block, they call one another and just take a walk around the block. They don’t take pictures of the license plates or do anything that might seem aggressive. They will smile and say hello and just let folks know that the neighbors are watching and aware of what’s happening on their street.

• Another suggestion for walking the neighborhood was to coordinate and wear the same color T-shirts (to look like a serious Neighborhood Watch team) and to carry flashlights.

• Report all instances of suspicious activity or crime to the LAPD non-emergency line. This gives our local SLO the backup that she or he needs to justify the level of enforcement in the area.

One of the tags was left on a beautifully, stained redwood fence. The homeowner sent out a picture of it after it was clean along with the hashtag: #ValleyGlenStrong! ■
Attend the VGNA Town Hall
June 11, 2019
Meeting Location: Los Angeles Valley College
A sincere thanks to the generosity and support of LAVC P for making a home for our Town Hall meetings:
LAVC, 5800 Fulton Avenue, Administrative & Career Adv Building Second Floor, Room 2505
6:30 pm Meet & Greet
7:00 pm Start
Please visit www.valleynol.org/lavc-map to view and download the LAVC map and meeting location.

If you would like a FREE Market Evaluation of your home or information regarding real estate activity in your area, call me now! www.freehomevaluesnow.com

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Dear Editor …

Would you like to comment on an article you’ve seen in this newsletter? Want to suggest an article topic?

Do you have suggestions for how to make life better in Valley Glen? Are there projects you’d like to suggest for the VGNA to work on?

We want to hear from you. Please send us your ideas, suggestions, and comments.

Write us at editor@vgna.org.
The Clean Team met on March 9th with Robin Shafer stepping in as Interim Leader. The team downloaded the MYLA311 app and spread out through the Glen looking for and reporting graffiti and furniture left on curbs.

The team consisted of Harry Norton, David Ross, Greg Gadachy, Linda Harvey, Robin’s husband Jim and one other woman who left without leaving her name. One of the things they reported was gang graffiti on a wall right across from the park.

Please join us—our next Clean Team Dates are:

- June 15th
- July 20th
- Aug. 17th

**Time:** 8:00 AM  
**Where:** Valley Glen Park (corner of Ethel & Erwin)

Even if you can’t join us you can help keep Valley Glen clean; the MyLA311 app is very easy to download on your smart phone and very easy to use. It’s a quick way to report graffiti or items for pick up. The city is very good about responding to these requests, especially the gang graffiti.

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**The Clean Team Chronicles:**

**Using The MYLA311 App To Make A Difference**

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**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:**

**RYLAN Workshop:**

**Ready Your Los Angeles Neighborhood**

Hi Neighbors. I am Robin Shafer and I held my RYLAN Workshop at my house on Feb 13.

It was easy to do especially with the template from that previous Newsletter. Here’s how I did it:

- First, I identified “my block” (the people to invite to the meeting): 18 houses on Bluebell from Erwin to Bessemer.
- Then, I called Crisanta Gonzalez, the Valley’s RYLAN Coordinator: 213-505-5467 (you can also email her at: crisanta.gonzalez@lacity.org.)
- Next, I chose a date from the ones she had available.
- I made copies of the invitation flyer from the newsletter and pasted in the meeting date and my contact information. (www.valleynolan.org/winter-2018/)
- I made a list with the addresses of everyone on my block. As I went door to door with my flier, I talked to everyone and got email addresses or cell phone numbers to send reminders and follow up if needed. I was able to talk to someone at every house.

I put little reminder slips in everyone’s mailboxes and still only 5 people showed up!! But Crisanta came with her slide show and a map of our neighborhood. She led us through making a plan for our whole block including identifying a meeting place and a safe place and how we would divide up duties like forming a search team.

All in all, it was very productive. The preparation we did will benefit the whole block—not just the 5 families who came. Cristana said that most neighborhoods get about a 25-30% turn out so we were about average. Plan your meeting today, let’s all be prepared.  

**We Mapped Our Hood!**

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**www.emergency.lacity.org/rylan/**